

~~SECRET~~
INFORMAL REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia/USSR

DATE DISTR. 9 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Yugoslavia Manages to get Soviet
Asbestos

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1. The Papandich Company of New York, an import and export firm, was recently instrumental in arranging for the secret purchase of a part of a 5,000 ton cargo of asbestos from the Soviet Union. Of the cargo, the Yugoslavs managed to purchase 2,000 tons, originally consigned to the Westinghouse Corporation in New York. There is a need for Russian asbestos in Yugoslavia since the Soviet embargo on all shipments to the former satellite.
2. The Papandich Company was engaged as the agent by the Yugoslav Commercial Attache, Beno Habjanich. The deal involving the asbestos for Yugoslavia was made while the material was still aboard the freighter. When the Yugoslav SS TOPUSKO, scheduled to arrive in New York late in January, made port, the cargo would be transferred. The vessel's return trip to Yugoslavia was scheduled for 3 February 1949.
3. Strict secrecy was maintained throughout the negotiations to preclude the Soviets from discovering any information about their cargo.

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